same as those of CRPF/BSF etc. While CRPF|BSF are armed forces of the Union, the members where of carry the liability of posting to any part of India and have to perform hazardous duties of law and order including the guarding of the country's borders (in case of BSF), this is not the case with SSF which is of un-armed character and performs duties of watch and ward and regulation of entry to Central Government Offices in Delhi.

Spurt in princes of Non-ferrous Metals

3453. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spurt in world prices for non-ferrous metals and a continuing depreciation of the rupee has hit the operations of several manufacturers including producers of cables automobile components and galvanised products;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incidence of the duties on all metals and scrap made the consumers of metal products bear a heavy burden; and

(c) whether Government propose to evolve an entirely new policy for tackling problems relating to non-ferrous metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the problem of the rising prices of non-ferrous metals because of the increase of prices in the international market and have taken steps to reduce the customs duties on non-ferrous metals from time to time.

Involvement of Society in Water Management

3454. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ancient Indain methods of collecting rain water in ponds, small check dams and sub-soil dams would help tackle the massive problems of soil erosion and create self confidence and involvement of society in water management; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revive the ancient Indian methods in preference to spenning huge amounts on major irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) In view of the increasing demand of water in the developing society, the National Water Policy recommends optimal use of water resources for various purpses. Watershed management is the accepted concept whicth includes conservation of land and water resources.

Revival of LIC Policies

3455. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC has recently carried out a campaign to revive LIC policies;

(b) whether it is a fact that this campaign did not properly touch rural areas;

(c) the steps being taken to extend this campaign for a further period; and

(d) what are the reasons for not reaching the rural areas properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India had launched a special revival campaign during the period from 1st December, 1988 to 28th February, 1989.

(b) to (d) Apart from issuing necessary instructions to all LIC's servicing

offices about the said campaign, wide publicity has also been made by advertising in the newspapers, putting hoardings at prominent places, etc. There is good response to this revival campaign from the policyholders in both urban and rural areas. The special revival campaign has already been extended up to 31-3-1989.

Establishment of a National Research Centre for Allied Fibres

3456. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish a National Research Centre for allied fibres at Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Judges vis-a-vis Population

3457. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Judges are there per million people in our country; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to speed up the administration of justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As per 120th Report of the Law Commission, there are 10.5 Judges per million of population in India.

(b) Besides increasing the judge strength of Supreme Court from 18 to 26 and the judge strength of High Courts from 351 to 451 in March, 1989, recommendations of the Committee of 3 Chief Justices of High Courts set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and State Governments for appropriate action.

Release of Jodhpur Detainees

3458. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the remaining Jodhpur detainees except those facing criminal charges, have since been released and if so, what is the reaction of Akali Dal and Sikh representatives thereto;

(b) the details of those released and those against whom criminal cases are pending; and

(c) what other steps have been taken towards resolving the Punjab problem as per package announced by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The release of Jodhpur undertrial prisoners has been welcomed by all concerned.

(b) All the Jodhpur undertrial prisoners have been released since the waging war case has been withdrawn against every undertrial lodged in Jodhpur jail. The last batch of 188 undertrials was released on 6-3-89 in this case. Some of the erstwhile Jodhpur undertrials have been facing other criminal charges also (other than waging war case).

39 of such persons are still in jail facing such other criminal charges.

(c) The other steps include withdrawal of cases for objectionable speeches, etc., removal of restrictions under foreigners Act for foreigners to visit Punjab, restriction of Disturbed Areas Act and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to the seriously disturbed areas, restrictions an use of Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, withdrawal of the National Security Act Amendment, normalisation of police functioning setting up monitoring mechanism for redressal of grievances of the people setting up of District